

# Fresno Police Department

## Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

February 28, 2008

- Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Jimmy Bosquez, Roz Clark, Morgan Doizaki, Gordon Donoho, Paula Farris, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Debra Odom, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Luke Raughley, Michael Roth, H. Spees, David Tittle, Kathy Omachi.
- Absent: Ed Bailey, Frank Franco, Floyd Harris, Enrique Reade, Jan Sangster, Deep Sethi, Darrell Tuckness,
- Guests: Deputy Chief Pat Farmer, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Lissa Parker and Fred Clark.
- Call to Order: The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:40 pm.

### Minutes:

Minutes from January 31, 2008 were approved without correction.

### Opening Remarks:

Discussion about practices during C.A.B. meetings.

### Agenda Items:

#### CALEA Re-accreditation Open Meeting: Sergeant Rogers

The P.D. is currently up for re-accreditation. The formal assessment will occur in April of this year. There will be a public session on Monday, April 14, at 7:00 pm, so that the assessors may hear from the public on matters that should be considered during the accreditation determination. The public session is currently scheduled to be held in the Chamber of Commerce boardroom; however, larger venues are being considered.

For persons who are unable to attend the public session, there will be a telephone call in session held on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The number to call will be announced.

Response to question: State and Federal budget concerns are not likely to impact accreditation in any way.

#### Increase in Police Involved Shootings for 2008

There were 4 officer involved shootings in all of 2007, the lowest number in ten years. During the first weeks of 2008, FPD has been involved in three: 1) Armed robbery response on E. Normal; 2) An altercation with a gang member following a gang shooting. 3) Suspect in stolen car that was aimed at an officer. An additional officer involved shooting did not involve Fresno Police but rather officers with the CHP and DMV.

#### Impact of State and Federal Budget Issues on Fresno Police Department

The Federal and State budgets will potentially impact the Fresno P.D. in a number of ways. One federal grant we rely on gives us about \$800,000.00 a year, money we use for equipment. This grant is in danger of being reduced by 75%. Another grant we rely on, this one at state level, provides us between \$750,000 and \$800,000. The Governor initially proposed to cut this grant by ten percent; the newest proposal is to eliminate it altogether.

In addition to having significantly less funding with which to operate, the State is also proposing early release from supervision for many parolees as well as the release of approximately 35,000 prison inmates within the coming year.

While we would like to see released inmates in re-entry facilities, the reality is that they are generally released and told to "sink or swim." Most haven't learned how to swim.

From local level, we will be hurting. The money may be going to Homeland Security or to the war overseas. We are fighting hard through IACP and Cal Chief's.

The Mayor is committed to not cutting local money.

Right now everything is based on projections.

Regarding bicycle officers: We learned a valuable lesson about the importance of the bicycle officers patrolling downtown when they were redistributed during the Christmas Presence operation. When we moved the officers from downtown; crime in that area increased.

## Round Table

Question: There is excessive speeding around schools such as McClane and Roosevelt. How do we increase awareness among drivers?

D.C. Farmer: Placing the MPH reporter in the right locations may help. Traffic accidents and fatalities are down, as are tickets. We are trying to distribute traffic officers to the appropriate areas and having them writing tickets for the right violations.

Question: Should we consider more community prevention/education efforts?

Chief Dyer: Absolutely. Multiple educational efforts are currently in place but we are always open to ideas and increased efforts toward prevention.

Comment: As we can do with drunk drivers, we should have a mechanism to report speeding drivers.

D.C. Farmer: Once we are equipped with automatic ticket writers (essentially a computer that automatically transmits each ticket written to a centralized database), we will be better able to dictate where resources need to be concentrated—similar to crime mapping. We will know exactly where each ticket is written, and for what, and we'll be able to concentrate efforts accordingly.

Question: What is happening with the [cell phone] handsfree [driving] issue?

Chief Dyer: We are starting a media blitz in terms of prevention. In July, we will start making traffic stops and issuing warnings for about 6 months. Then we will start writing tickets.

D.C. Farmer: In addition, it will be a Health and Safety Code violation to smoke in a vehicle with children in it.

Comment: Public education on speeding should let people know that there is almost no time saved in traveling 60 mph versus 40 mph.

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Question: Regarding graffiti on a building, is it right that they only paint one side of the building if two sides have graffiti?

Chief Dyer: It largely depends upon when the report was made regarding the graffiti. It is policy to respond to remove reported graffiti within 24 hours, so they may paint what has been reported and then move onto the next reported location.

Additionally, there have been reports of graffiti increasing. What happens is when it is raining, we can't remove it as fast, so it appears as though the amount is increasing.

Also, we are on target to arrest 1000 graffiti vandals this year. We arrested 700 last year. The vandals likely won't go to jail, but will end up on probation and have community service, fines, etc.

Comment: We should have the Graffiti Bureau do educational events at schools.

Comment: High schools are being really active in the communities in which they are located in painting over graffiti.

Question: Whose responsibility is it when the side of a business gets tagged?

Comment: It's everyone's responsibility. It has to be a community effort.

Comment: Fresno Unified School District has a policy of removing graffiti on schools within 4 hours; removal averages about 2 ½ hours. People can report school graffiti to FUSD 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Comment: Board would be interested in seeing the Graffiti Bureau's presentation. Also: would like to underscore that graffiti is indeed a community responsibility.

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Question: Any progress toward mediation?

Chief Dyer: I anticipate it will be beneficial to the Department. I can't think of a better process for citizens and officers. The FPOA is addressing some questions / concerns with FPOAs attorney. It has been discussed w/executive board. As with any good thing, it takes time.

Additionally, The ACLU has filed a complaint regarding our Internal Affairs process. They feel we are not complying with the requirement to notify complainants of the disposition of their investigation. I want to be as transparent as possible, but am waiting for the CityAttorney to provide a decision on what level of notification is legal. We are giving notifications now that the investigation was completed. The Peace Officers Bill of Rights prohibits PD from providing any information about the discipline officers receive or do not receive.

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Comment: The homeless encampment is experiencing ongoing problems with cheap drugs. Something new is causing people to "flip out." The private security officers are not doing much to help.

#### Announcements:

None

#### Closing Remarks:

None.

#### Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

#### Next Meeting:

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008